Increase in oral diseases

3703. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of oral diseases are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of patients suffering from dental and other oral diseases in the country during the last three years, year-wise, and

(c) the action Government have taken to make the vast population of the country conscious about the danger of oral diseases and to formulate strict oral health regulations for the prevention of dental and other oral diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) No Nationwide study has been conducted to determine the number of Indian population suffering from dental and other oral diseases. However, according to AIMS few isolated studies are available which indicate high prevalence of dental caries to the extent of 80% in children and 40-50% in adults. The periodontal disease are prevalent to the extent of 90-95% whereas, malocclusion is present in 30% of school going children. A National Oral Health Care Programme has already been launched. In order to sensitize the Dental professionals about the need to prevent dental diseases in the country, various workshops have been held in the first phase and in the second phase, the training of dental surgeons and health workers has been planned.

Synthetic nutrients in the food of children, pregnant women etc.

3704. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that synthetic nutrients particularly Vitamin-A are used in the food of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that leading experts are expressing concern over health hazards caused by the use of such food with large dose of Vitamin-A; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No food regularly consumed by rural population